



Preparing for Hazardous Materials Accidents in the Home

Go on a Home Hazard Hunt

Read labels. Some cleaners can cause an explosion or fire if they come in contact with each other, water, heat or flames.



Make a List

Make a list of the hazardous products you have in your home. List the name of the product and emergency care information.

Store Hazardous Materials Properly

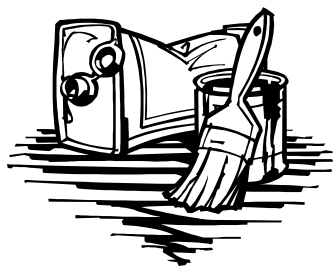
Store hazardous household products according to safety recommendations.

- Store hazardous materials in a safe, dry location.
- Be sure all containers are closed to avoid spills and escaping vapors.
- Store flammable products and corrosive products in separate locations. The label will indicate if the product is corrosive or flammable.
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- Never store aerosols on or near fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, wood stoves, pilot lights, furnaces or kitchen appliances.
- Keep herbicides and pesticides away from any heat source.
- Store herbicides separately from pesticides. Herbicide vapors can contaminate other products.
- Store pesticides and herbicides away from fertilizer. Their vapors can contaminate fertilizers.
- Periodically check hazardous product containers for deterioration and possible leaks.
- Check periodically to be sure that labels on hazardous products are secure and readable.
- Store hazardous products on high shelves or in locked cabinets to prevent poisoning of children and pets.

This document is IFAS publication DH 1105.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Extension Agent's Handbook for Emergency Preparation and Response
(Texas Agricultural Extension Services and the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center)

- Do not store flammable liquids such as gasoline and kerosene in a garage or utility room attached to the house.
- Never store flammable liquids or even a lawn mower filled with gasoline near a heat source such as gas water heaters, furnaces, radiators, space heaters, etc. Spontaneous combustion can occur if the flammable liquid vapors escape.



“Securely fasten shelves where hazardous materials are stored.”

Prevent Spills

To prevent household hazardous materials from being spilled during a disaster such as a flood, fire or earthquake, take the following preventive measures:

- Securely fasten shelves where hazardous materials are stored.
- Store incompatible products in separate locations so they will not come in contact with each other.
- Label the shelves where flammable products are stored.
- Store hazardous materials in a metal cabinet to protect them from fire.
- Dry off containers that get wet in a flood. Move them off damp shelves until the shelf material has dried thoroughly.
- Check labels on wet containers and reglue or tape them securely before they come off completely.

Know Your Hazardous Materials

Be aware of how different chemicals may react during mixed spills. Some common chemicals and their dangers are:

Location in Home	Product	Potential Hazard
Kitchen	Cleansers	reactive
	Detergents	reactive
	Cooking oil	flammable
	Aerosols	explosive in fire
Bathroom	Aerosols	explosive in fire
	Alcohol	flammable
	Nail polish remover	flammable
	Medicines	see label

Bedrooms	Aerosols	explosive in fire
	Gun ammunition	explosive in fire
	Medicines	see label
Workshops	Paints	toxic
	Paint thinner	toxic, flammable
	Adhesives	toxic, flammable
Garage	Gasoline	toxic, flammable
	Antifreeze	toxic, flammable
	Brake fluid	toxic, flammable
	Transmission fluid	toxic, flammable
	Oil	flammable
Laundry Room	Detergents	reactive
	Cleansers	reactive
	Bleach	reactive
Gardening	Pesticides	toxic, reactive
	Fertilizers	toxic, reactive, most flammable or explosive when mixed with gasoline
General	Natural gas	flammable, explosive
	Sewer gases from broken sewer pipes	toxic, explosive